

CLAIMS

5 1. Detergent composition, capable of exhibiting
enhanced bleachable stain removal in the substantial
absence of oxygen bleaches, containing surface-active
agents, builders, conventional additives and optional
10 comprises

I: of from 0.1 % to 5 % by weight of a fructan component
selected from the group of:

15 (a) carboxyalkylinulin, wherein the alkyl moiety contains
from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

(b) dicarboxyinulin having a degree of oxydation from 10
% to 100 %, expressed as a molar percentage of
20 monosaccharide units converted into the corresponding
analogues;

(c) 6-carboxyinulin; and

25 (d) fructan polycarboxylic acid, having a degree of
oxidative substitution of from 0.2 to 2.0 and a degree of
carboxyalkylation or carboxyacylation of from 0.2 to 3.0;
and

30 II: of from 0.1 % to 5 % by weight of a phosphonate
selected from the group of:

(i) $(R_2)_a-N-(R_1-PO_3H_2)_{n-a}$;

35 wherein R_1 is an alkylene group having from 1
to 4 carbon atoms, R_2 is an alkylene group having

from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a is 0, or 2 and n is 1, 2 or 3;

(ii) phosphonobutane tricarboxylic acid;

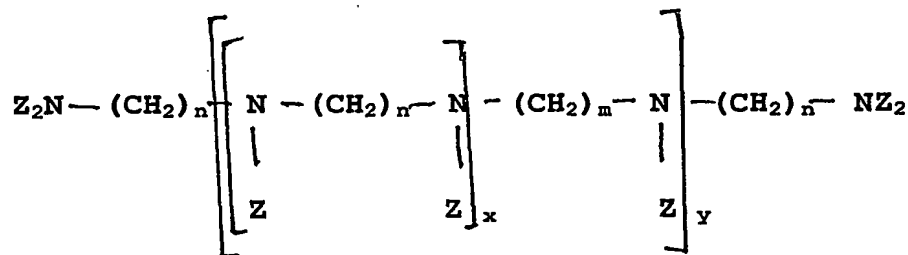
(iii) an alkylene polyphosphonate wherein the alkylene chain contains from 2 to 6 carbon atoms and the component contains at least two phosphonate groups;

(iv) an alkylene polyamino polyphosphonate; and

(v) a mixture of such phosphonates.

2. The composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of components I to II is in the range of from 20 : 1 to 1 : 6, preferably of from 10 : 1 to 1 : 4; more preferably of from 8 : 1 to 1 : 1

3. The composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the alkylene polyamino polyphosphonate is represented by the following formula:



wherein

Z is $-\text{CHR}^1\text{PO}_3\text{R}_2$

R is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or M;

M is a metal ion or ammonium;

R^1 is H, CH_3 , or CH_2COOH ;

n is 1-6, preferably 2-4;
m is 2-6, preferably 2-4;
x is 0-6, preferably 0-3;
y is 0-6, preferably 0-1.

5

4. The composition in accordance with Claims 1 and 3 wherein the polyphosphonate is selected from the group of: ethylenediamino tetramethylenephosphonate; diethylene triamino pentamethylenephosphonate; dihexyleneethylene
10 tetraamino hexamethylenephosphonate; bishexamethylene triaminopentamethylene phosphonate; phosphonobutane tricarboxylic acid; and amino(trismethylenephosphonic acid.

15 5. The composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the fructan component is selected from carboxyalkylinulin having 1 or 2 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety and having a degree of substitution of from 1.5 to 2.8 and dicarboxyinulin having a degree of oxidation (DO)
20 of from 20 % to 90 %.

6. The composition in accordance with Claims 1 and 5 wherein the fructan component is present in a level of
25 from 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight and the polyphosphonate is present in 0.1 to 2;0 % by weight.